REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The courteous telephone interview granted applicants' undersigned attorney on September 26, 2007 by Examiner Melvin Pollack is hereby respectfully acknowledged. The claim amendments included herein were discussed. As requested by the Examiner, the arguments presented in the interview are set forth below.

Claims 5, 17, and 18 are amended herein to clarify the invention. Claims 5-7, 13-14, and 17-20 are currently pending.

Claims 5-7, 13-14, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,309 (Cook et al.).

Claim 5 is directed at extracting information from compressed network management object identifiers and includes extracting a first value from the identifier, decompressing that first value to recover a first group of elements of the identifier, and then extracting the remaining elements from the identifier. Similar recitations are found in claims 17 and 18. Claims 5, 17, and 18 are amended herein to clarify the invention. More specifically, claims 5, 17, and 18 have been amended to specify receiving the network management object identifier comprising a first value in compressed form and remaining elements in uncompressed form.

The Cook et al. patent discloses a different scheme for encoding network management object identifiers. As summarized at column 2, lines 23-44, Cook et al. teach a method for transmitting identifiers and the variables that they identify in a way that reduces redundancy. Where multiple variables are denoted by identifiers that share elements or "sub-identifiers," one may remove redundancy by combining the variables into a single summary variable and transmitting the shared elements of the identifier only once for the summary variable. In this way one need not repeatedly transmit identifier elements that are repeated.

By contrast, claims 5, 17 and 18 recite extracting information from a network management object identifier where certain elements are decompressed and other elements are extracted. As recited in the claims, a first value is compressed and remaining elements are uncompressed in the received network management object identifier. In Cook et al., sub-identifiers that would be repeated are simply skipped by combining multiple variables into a single summary variable. The text in Cook et al. (see column 5, lines 39-49) further reinforces that the Cook et al. technique is directed towards skipping the transmission of identifiers and identifier elements rather than extracting and decompressing parts of an identifier.

Furthermore, Cook et al. do not disclose wherein a first group of elements and remaining elements are associated with a single network management object. The summary variable used by Cook et al. has many different objects inside (see, for example, col. 5, lines 33-37).

Applicant's invention provides advantages not provided by the Cook et al. scheme. For example, since applicant's invention operates on elements all associated with a single network management object (see claims 5, 17, and 18), single network management objects can be retrieved, transmitted, manipulated, etc., by reference to their identifier without the necessity of unpacking them from a larger multi-object data structure, as done in Cook et al. The failure of the cited art to provide this capability argues further against its relevance to the pending claims.

Claims 6-7, 13-14, and 19-20 are allowable for at least the reason of their dependence from their allowable base independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,

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